

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article comprising a front portion, a rear portion, a liquid-permeable top sheet, a liquid-impermeable backing sheet, and an absorbent body enclosed between the top and backing sheets, wherein the rear portion of the article includes a longitudinally extending ridge-shaped elevation that projects out from the side of the article that contains the top sheet,

wherein a central string of material extends in the rear portion of the article;

the top sheet, the backing sheet and the absorbent body enclosed therebetween in the rear portion of the article extend around the long sides of said string, and

wherein the string comprises a rear portion of a longitudinally extending strip of flexible material that has a high coefficient of friction with respect to textile material and which extends in the front and the rear portion of the article and is fastened to the backing sheet on the side thereof that lies distal from the absorbent body.
3. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article according to claim 1, comprising a front portion, a rear portion, a liquid-permeable top sheet, a liquid-impermeable backing sheet, and an absorbent body enclosed between the top and backing sheets, wherein the rear portion of the article includes a longitudinally extending

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